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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6226

BILL NUMBER: HB 1212

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 27, 2006

BILL AMENDED: Jan 26, 2006

SUBJECT: Drainage Assessments and Sanitation Districts.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Dodge

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☒ **DEDICATED**
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill provides that the state is not exempt from drainage assessments and is not entitled to a refund of a drainage assessment paid before January 1, 2006. It makes the following changes for a Department of Public Sanitation in a sanitation district (district) that contains at least one city having a population of less than 100,000 and at least one town: (1) Makes the department an executive department of each municipality in the district. (2) Allows a district to perform certain functions in the name of any municipality in the district or in the name of the district. (3) Provides that fees related to property that is subject to full taxation do not take effect until the fees are approved by the legislative body of each municipality in the district or established by the Utility Regulatory Commission.

Effective Date: (Amended) January 1, 2006 (retroactive); Upon Passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *IURC and OUCC Funding:* The provisions in this bill related to sanitation districts could potentially increase the administrative cost and workload of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC). It is presumed that these provisions can be implemented within the existing level of resources available to the IURC.

The operating budgets of the IURC and the OUCC are funded by regulated utilities operating in Indiana. The IURC determines the rate at which to bill the utilities based on the two agencies' budgets, less reversions, divided by the total amount of gross intra-state operating revenue received by the regulated utilities for the previous fiscal year. Based on this formula, utilities are currently billed approximately 0.10% of their gross intra-state operating revenues to fund the IURC and OUCC. In FY 2005, fees from the utilities and fines generated approximately \$11.7 M.

Drainage: The bill provides that the state is not exempt from drainage assessments. Consequently, the state would continue to pay the assessments. It is possible that the bill could result in additional payments that the state would need to make for drainage assessments for which the state is not currently being assessed. Total drainage assessments for the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) equaled \$56,834 in 2005. The amount of payments for which the state might be liable is not known at this time.

Background Information: The DNR and INDOT are currently paying drainage assessments. (Information on drainage payments by other state entities will be provided if they become available.)

DNR Drainage Payments. The DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife paid \$12,766 in 2005 for drainage assessments. The assessment was paid to several counties' assessors. The largest assessment of \$3,263 was paid to Noble County. DNR paid Newton County an assessment of \$1,338 and Tipton County an assessment of \$1,035.

The DNR Division of Parks and Reservoirs paid \$12,916 in 2005 for drainage assessments. The assessment was paid primarily to Noble County.

The DNR Division of Forestry reported a drainage assessment payment of \$37 for 2005.

The Division of Nature Preserves reported a drainage assessment payment of \$432 for 2005.

The total drainage assessment paid by DNR in 2005 equaled \$26,153.

INDOT Drainage Payments. INDOT drainage payments are listed in the table below.

| INDOT Storm Water Runoff Assessment Fees | | |
|--|--------------|-------------|
| | Monthly Rate | Annual Rate |
| Crawfordsville District | | |
| No charges | \$ - | \$ - |
| Fort Wayne District | | |
| New Haven | \$ 257.81 | \$ 3,093.72 |
| Fort Wayne | \$ 430.40 | \$ 5,164.80 |
| Marion | \$ 45.00 | \$ 540.00 |
| Angola | \$ 18.00 | \$ 216.00 |
| Wabash | \$ 73.47 | \$ 881.64 |
| Greenfield District | | |
| Greenfield Utilities | \$ 750.00 | \$ 9,000.00 |
| Anderson Utilities | \$ 217.00 | \$ 2,604.00 |
| Shelbyville Utilities | \$ 168.00 | \$ 2,016.00 |
| LaPorte District | | |
| No Charges | \$ - | \$ - |
| Seymour District | | |
| Clarksville Wastewater | \$ 354.00 | \$ 4,248.00 |
| North Vernon Water Dept. | \$ 10.00 | \$ 120.00 |
| Vincennes District | | |
| Chandler Utilities | \$ 4.00 | \$ 48.00 |
| Chandler Utilities | \$ 4.00 | \$ 48.00 |
| Chandler Utilities | \$ 225.12 | \$2,701.44 |
| Totals | \$2,556.80 | \$30,681.60 |

Explanation of State Revenues: *Drainage:* The bill provides that the state is not entitled to a refund of a drainage assessment paid before January 1, 2006. Consequently, the state will not experience an increase in revenue resulting from a refund of drainage payments.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) *Sanitary Boards and Districts:* This bill creates a second procedure for establishing fees for a specific sanitary district. Under the new procedure fees can be changed if the sanitary district board approves the fees and the fees are also approved by either the legislative bodies of each municipality in the district or established by the IURC. Currently, each legislative body must approve their own fees. Procedures used in this bill could increase or decrease fees and would be dependent on the new board's action in comparison to what each individual district would have done. The fiscal impact is

indeterminable.

Under this bill the specified sanitary district is allowed to (but is not limited to): (1) sue or be sued; (2) enter into contracts; and (3) incur expenses necessary in operating a utility. The municipalities that would make up this district already have these responsibilities. This bill would transfer the responsibility from the municipalities to the specified sanitary district. The fiscal impact of this provision is indeterminable.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Drainage:* Counties may experience an increase in revenues if local units determine that the state has not been assessed drainage payments in the past for which the state was liable. The impact is indeterminable.

State Agencies Affected: DNR, INDOT, IURC.

Local Agencies Affected: Counties and certain municipalities.

Information Sources: Burgess Brown, Legislative Liaison, DNR; Larry Owens, Budget Analyst, INDOT.

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